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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,810	09/25/2003	Hiroatsu Toi	H04-3826/KK	5448
23345	7590	01/12/2006		EXAMINER
MCGUIREWOODS, LLP			LEVKOVICH, NATALIA A	
1750 TYSONS BLVD				
SUITE 1800			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
MCLEAN, VA 22102			1743	

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/669,810	TOI ET AL.
	Examiner Natalia Levkovich	Art Unit 1743

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 November 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendments and remarks filed 11/02/2005 have been acknowledged by the Examiner and entered. Examiner notes that by receiving 'some' of the priority documents denotes that, although the foreign priority document has been received, the certified translation has not been provided.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office Action.
3. The 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 1-5 and 11 as being anticipated by Nakano (US 6006800), is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Claims 1-5 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano.

Nakano discloses an apparatus comprising a dispensing mechanism, a moving mechanism, a microplate, reagent vessels and dispensing tip containers – see the appropriate paragraphs of the prior Office Action.

Although Nakano does teach a second dispensing tip container ("used-tip

dispensing box 6), the reference does not specifically teach that the tips in the box would be arranged as a matrix. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have arranged the tips in this manner in the second dispensing tip container of the modified apparatus of Nakano, in order to provide more efficient re-usability of the tips. Additionally, the Court decided *In re Harza*, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960) that mere duplication of parts has no patentable significance unless a new and unexpected result is produced.

5. Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano in view of Marouiss (US 20010048899).

See the appropriate paragraphs of the prior Office Action.

6. Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano in view of Hilson (US 20030032191).

See the appropriate paragraphs of the prior Office Action.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments dated 10/17/2005 have been fully considered but they are moot in view of new grounds of rejection (see above).

Conclusion

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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Natalia Levkovich whose telephone number is 571-272-2462. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-4p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jill Warden
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700